



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Tim M. Catherman
Deputy Commissioner, Support Services

DATE: September 7, 2005

SUBJECT: Virginia Aging and AoA in the News

Below are Virginia Aging or AoA related articles that have occurred since last week's Tuesday E-mailing. These links do not require a paid service; however, some (like the Washington Post, etc.) ask a brief survey or registration. Please note some links are time sensitive and can change daily. Some articles may be editorial and/or political. Links are presented 'as is'.

If you are aware of additional articles, please e-mail me a link for inclusion next week.

VDA and Virginia AAAs In the News

[High Gas Prices, Charity Don't Mix](#)

Lynchburg News and Advance

Despite steadily rising gasoline prices, James Canody isn't putting the brakes on his volunteer work. ... The Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging has a fleet of about 35 vehicles, mostly minivans, that provide transportation ...

AoA

[The Winchester Star](#)

Winchester Star - Winchester, VA

Winchester's Adult Care Center ... All the therapies are being funded by a \$100,000 grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging. ...

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Cecily Slasor
Administrative Program Specialist

DATE: **September 7, 2005**

SUBJECT: Virginia Attorney General Issues Consumer Alert in Aftermath of
Hurricane Katrina

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina which has devastated the Gulf Coast, Virginia Attorney General Judith Williams Jadgmann has announced a consumer alert. Attorney General Jadgmann wants to assure Virginia consumers that her office is monitoring any consumer fraud and/or misrepresentation by businesses. See attached press release for details.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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For Release: August 31, 2005

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Attorney General Jagdmann Issues Consumer Alert in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina -Disaster in the Gulf Region to Effect Gasoline Prices-

RICHMOND – Attorney General Judith Williams Jagdmann has announced a consumer alert in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and is assuring all Virginia consumers that her office is monitoring any incidences of consumer fraud and misrepresentation.

“Our office is concerned about the costs consumers must pay for necessary goods,” said Attorney General Jagdmann. “We encourage consumers to file complaints with our office if they have reason to believe that prices were not determined by ordinary market forces of supply and demand. No business should use a disaster as cover to gouge prices unrelated to actual market rates.”

Virginia legislation regarding price gouging prohibits price gouging for basic commodities such as food, water, ice, and building materials during a declared state of emergency. It also authorizes the Attorney General to bring actions on behalf of the public to enjoin price gouging and to seek civil penalties on those who charge an unconscionable price for certain basic commodities. This legislation only applies during a time of disaster when either the Governor or the President declares a state of emergency covering parts of Virginia.

“Virginians have always been generous in helping victims of disasters. I encourage all citizens of the Commonwealth to reflect and pray for the victims and to help them if you can. When considering a donation to help the victims, make sure it goes to a legitimate charity.”

Virginia consumers who wish to donate to charitable foundations that benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina should be careful to avoid scam organizations claiming to help these victims. The Office of the Attorney General is offering these tips:

CHARITY SCAMS

While there are many legitimate organizations that provide relief to disaster victims, con artists will move in to collect funds for non-existent charities and then pocket the money. Solicitations may come by phone, mail, or in person. Always follow these tips when considering a charitable donation:

- Only give to disaster relief charities you know are reliable.
- Beware of "copy-cat" names that sound like reputable charities.
- Do not be pressured into giving. Legitimate organizations will not expect you to contribute immediately.

- Ask for written information. Legitimate organizations will give you materials about the charity's mission, how your donation will be used, and proof that your contribution is tax-deductible.
- Just because a "charity" has a tax identification number does not mean your contribution is tax-deductible.
- Ask how much of the donation will go to the program you want to support and how much will go to administrative or fundraising costs.
- Avoid cash donations. Make checks payable to the charitable organization and not to an individual collecting a donation.
- Verify the charity's registration with the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs at (804) 786-2042 or (800) 552-9963 (within Virginia if calling from outside the Richmond area).

REPORTING DISASTER SCAMS

You can report disaster scams or other consumer fraud to the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Consumer Affairs at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Antitrust and Consumer Litigation Section
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-2116 or (800) 451-1525
(804) 786-0122 (fax)
www.vaag.com

OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
1100 Bank Street, Suite 100
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-2042 or (800) 552-9963
804-225-2666 (fax)
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/consumers/index.html>

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